

AGENDA ITEM XI-A

Presentation of sixth annual Kenneth H. Ashworth Fellowship for graduate study in public affairs, public policy, or public administration

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

The Kenneth H. Ashworth Fellowship Program was established in 1997 by the members of the Coordinating Board to honor Dr. Ashworth for his 21 years of service as Commissioner of Higher Education.

The funds for the fellowship have been provided by gifts. The current balance of the fund is \$64,668.51, of which \$6,704.52. is earnings. The fellowship awards are made from the earnings of the funds. Each fellowship award is \$2,000.

To be eligible for a fellowship, a student must:

- be a Texas resident;
- be identified by the dean of his/her program of study as needing financial assistance;
- be enrolled as a graduate student in public affairs, public service or public administration; and
- intend to work in Texas after completing his/her graduate studies.

A committee, consisting of three members of the Coordinating Board staff appointed by the Commissioner, accepts and evaluates applications from institutions and selects the fellowship award recipient. In choosing the recipient, the committee considers the following factors:

- academic ability and promise;
- career plan;
- individual qualifications, with emphasis on leadership and communication skills; and
- financial need.

The winner of the Kenneth H. Ashworth Fellowship award for Academic Year 2004-2005 is Ms. Ana A. Nguyen and she currently attends The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, Satellite Program-Dallas.

Previous Ashworth Fellowship winners are:

- 1999 (inaugural year) – Ms. Stephanie Smith, a student at Texas Tech University in the Master's of Public Administration Program
- 2000 – Ms. Melissa Lazarin, a student at The University of Texas at Austin in the LBJ School of Public Affairs

- 2001 – Ms. Jema K. Turk; a student at The University of Texas at Austin in the LBJ School of Public Affairs
- 2002 – Ms. Christie M. Jestis, a student at UT – Arlington in the School of Urban & Public Affairs
- 2003 – Mr. Jesus Perez, a student at Sam Houston State University